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EIS000263

YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT DRAFT EIS

*Statement of Pauline GTE
submitted to court report
Jane Pine, p. 1*

INTRODUCTION. [Tribal Chair, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe].

An official written statement will be submitted by the Tribal Council at a later date. Because this project is so dangerous for the health and safety of the Timbisha Shoshone people who live near Yucca Mountain, a preliminary statement should be said at this hearing.

The Timbisha Shoshone Tribe opposes the Yucca Mountain Project because it places highly radioactive wastes in Western Shoshone land for thousands and millions of years. Accidents will occur as wastes are transported from all over the country. The containers will eventually leak and contaminate the groundwater, poisoning future generations. The Timbisha Shoshone people will eventually become effected by the groundwater when it becomes contaminated.

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We must act responsibly in order to protect future generations. Although the DOE considers it a wasteland, this desert land is sacred, and it is stolen Western Shoshone land. We know this land, we have always lived here, and that is why we will fight to protect it.

A few comments will be said about the Draft EIS:

The Draft EIS for the Yucca Mountain Project is confusing, poorly written, and not very well organized. It seems like the DOE has either ignored or intentionally obscured the real dangers of the project. The Draft EIS is so bad that it needs to be redone before a Final EIS can be prepared. The following issues, among others, need to be adequately addressed in a revised Draft EIS:

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(1) The concerns of Native Americans are briefly noted throughout the EIS, and then completely ignored. For instance, the issues of environmental justice and risk assessments for Native Americans living in the region were not adequately addressed. The DOE needs to listen to the people who have lived here for thousands of years and who will never leave. If the DOE really knew this place, they would not want to turn it into a radioactive dump. The concerns of Native Americans must not just be acknowledged, but must be integrated into the environmental impact analysis.

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(2) The “No Action Alternative” does not provide reasonable alternatives to the Yucca Mountain Project. Real alternatives need to be presented.

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(3) The transportation analysis for rail and highway shipments of nuclear waste is too general to be of any value. Since the risks of transporting highly radioactive nuclear wastes from all over the country to Nevada are high, detailed studies of the chosen route should be included in the EIS.

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(4) Government-to-government consultation must continue with the Western Shoshone—public hearings for the general public are not the same as government-to-government consultations between the United States government and Indian nations.

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CONCLUSION. The Western Shoshone were here thousands of years ago, and if the radioactive wastes are buried at Yucca Mountain, we will be here to drink the poisoned water. You may come and go, but we will always be here. The DOE may not care what happens to this land and its people thousands of years from now, but we do.

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We must protect the Earth now for future generations. We must act responsibly. The scientists really don't know what they are doing. They have no way of really knowing what will be happening here 10,000 years from now, except that the containers will eventually leak and contaminate the groundwater, poisoning the water for all the people who will live here in the future. Long before this happens, trucks or trains carrying nuclear wastes may have accidents which will contaminate the land and harm the people.

The DOE's plans for burying radioactive wastes at Yucca Mountain are reckless and politically motivated. Yucca Mountain was chosen because this region is considered an expendable wasteland by the U. S. government. Alternatives *that will work* must be developed. Real consultation with the Western Shoshone will help you find these alternatives.

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Our people have already been poisoned by nuclear bombs at the Nevada Test Site. The land needs healing, not more poison.

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